

Editor's Preface

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This issue is dedicated to Professor Norman L. Allinger, the founding editor of the *Journal of Computational Chemistry*. A summary of Lou's career, written by his colleague Professor J. Phillip Bowen, follows. Lou's early interest in applying computers to chemistry led him to devise increasingly effective molecular mechanics programs for organic systems. By the late 1970s, these and other methods had developed sufficiently for John Wiley and Sons, Inc., to consider the founding of a new journal devoted to this rapidly emerging area. The first issue appeared in January 1980. The name of this new discipline, *computational chemistry*, was

defined by the name chosen for the journal. The acceptance of the journal was rapid. In its second year of publication, *Journal of Computational Chemistry* was rated among the top 10 chemistry journals in impact (in number of citations per paper published). It has held this ranking ever since.

This issue is comprised of papers that were presented at a special WATOC-sponsored symposium, "Structural and Mechanistic Organic Chemistry," held in honor of Lou in Athens, Georgia. His colleagues and friends wish Lou many more productive and successful years after his formal retirement.